

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A combined terminal fitting assembly comprising: a first terminal fitting (TR) with a wire connecting portion (12) for enabling a wire (W) to extend from a first-side position of a main body (24), a second terminal fitting (TL) with a wire connecting portion (12) for enabling a wire (W) to extend from a second-side position of a main body (33), the first and second terminal fittings (TR, TL) being assembled such that the main bodies (24; 33) are substantially one over the other and the wires (W) are substantially parallel at lateral sides, and engaging means (25, 26; 27, 28; 34, 35; 36, 37) at opposed surfaces of the main bodies (24; 33) for engaging each other by sliding the first terminal fitting (TR) substantially along a transverse direction (TD) with respect to the second terminal fitting (TL) and for holding the second and first terminal fittings (TL; TR) assembled.

2. The combined terminal fitting assembly of claim 1, wherein each engaging means includes a slit (19) extending along the transverse direction (TD) from an edge of the engaging means.

3. The combined terminal fitting assembly of claim 2, wherein upon assembling the second and first terminal fittings (TL; TR), one engaging means is fit into the slit (19) of the mating engaging means to ensure a sufficient area of engagement between the engaging means (25, 26; 27, 28; 34, 35; 36, 37) of both terminal fittings (TL; TR).

4. The combined terminal fitting assembly of claim 1, wherein the engaging means (25, 26; 27, 28; 34, 35; 36, 37) of each of the second and first terminal fittings (TL; TR) projects from a surface of the main body (24; 33).

5. The combined terminal fitting assembly of claim 1, further comprising at least one single-face terminal fitting (TRh; TLh) with a substantially flat main body (11; 21) and opposite upper and lower surfaces, a wire (W) extending from the flat main body (11; 21) at a position displaced along the transverse direction (TD) and the main body (11; 21) having an engaging means (14, 15; 22, 23) projecting from only one of the upper and lower surfaces of the main body (11; 21).

6. The combined terminal fitting assembly of claim 5, wherein the single-face terminal fitting (TRh; TLh) is assembled with at least one of the terminal fittings (TR; TL) located at the opposite ends of a group of terminal fittings (TR; TL) placed substantially one over another with the engaging means (14, 15; 22, 23) thereof faced toward the group of the terminal fittings (TR; TL).

7. The combined terminal fitting assembly of claim 1, wherein each main body (24; 33) comprises a plurality of plates (24a-c; 33a-c) folded from one conductive plate material, and the engaging means (25, 26; 27, 28; 34, 35; 36, 37) are formed on the plates (24a; 24c; 33a; 33c) at the upper and lower positions.

8. A combined terminal fitting assembly comprising:

a first terminal fitting (TL) having opposite upper and lower surfaces and engaging portions (34, 35; 36, 37) projecting from each of the upper and lower surfaces, a first wire connecting portion (12) for enabling a wire (W) to extend from the first terminal fitting (TL);

a second terminal fitting (TR) having opposite upper and lower surfaces and engaging portions (25, 26; 27, 28) projecting from each of the upper and lower surfaces, the engaging portions (27, 28) projecting the upper surface of the second terminal fitting (TR) engaging the engaging portions (36, 37) projecting from the lower surface of the first terminal fitting (TL) for assembling the first and second terminal fittings (TL, TR) substantially one over the other, a second wire connecting portion (12) for enabling a wire (W) to extend from the second terminal fitting (TR) substantially parallel to and offset from the wire (W) from the first terminal fitting (TR); and

a third terminal fitting (TLh) having opposite upper and lower surfaces, engaging portions (22, 23) projecting from only the upper surface of the third terminal fitting (TLh) and engaging the engaging portions (25, 26) projecting from the lower surface of the second terminal fitting (TR) for assembling the second and third terminal fittings (TR, TLh), a third wire connecting portion (12) for enabling a wire (W) to extend from the third terminal fitting (TLh) substantially parallel to and offset from the wires (W) of the first and second terminal fittings (TL, TR).

9. The combined terminal fitting of claim 8, wherein the lower surface of the third terminal fitting (TLh) is substantially flat.

10. The combined terminal fitting of claim 9, further comprising a fourth terminal fitting (TRh) having opposite upper and lower surfaces, engaging portions (14, 15) projecting from only the lower surface of the fourth terminal fitting (TRh) and engaging the engaging portions (34, 35) at the upper surface of the first terminal fitting (TL) for assembling the first and fourth terminal fittings (TL, TRh), a fourth wire connecting portion (12) displaced from the first wire connecting portion (12) for enabling a wire (W) to extend from the fourth terminal fitting (TRh) substantially parallel to and offset from the wires (W) of the first, second and third terminal fittings (TL, TR, TLh).

11. The combined terminal fitting of claim 10, wherein the upper surface of the fourth terminal fitting (TRh) is substantially flat.

12. The combined terminal fitting of claim 8, wherein each of the first, second and third terminal fittings (TL, TR, TLh) has opposite left and right sides, the wire connecting portions of the first and third terminal fittings (TL, TLh) being closer to the left sides than to the right sides thereof.

13. The combined terminal fitting of claim 12, wherein the wire connecting portion (12) of the second terminal fitting (TR) is closer to the right side thereof.

14. A method of assembling a combined terminal fitting assembly having the following steps:

providing a first terminal fitting (TR) with a wire connecting portion (12) for enabling a wire (W) to extend from a first-side position of a main body (24);

providing a second terminal fitting (TL) with a wire connecting portion (12) for enabling a wire (W) to extend from a second-side position of a main body (33);

placing the main bodies (24; 33) substantially one over the other with the wires (W) substantially parallel at lateral sides; and

sliding the first terminal fitting (TR) along a transverse direction (TD) with respect to the second terminal fitting (TL) for interengaging engaging means (25, 26; 27, 28; 34, 35; 36, 37) at opposed surfaces of the main bodies (24; 33) and holding the second and first terminal fittings (TL; TR) assembled.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising forming each engaging means with a slit (19) extending along the transverse direction (TD) from an edge of the engaging means.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein upon assembling the second and first terminal fittings (TL; TR), one engaging means is fit into the slit (19) another of the engaging means to ensure a sufficient area of engagement between the engaging means (25, 26; 27, 28; 34, 35; 36, 37) of both terminal fittings (TL; TR).